Noise Pollution Surveys

7079. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) in which cities the Noise Pollution Surveys were carried out in the recent past;

(b) what are the major findings of this survey; and

(c) what steps are being taken to reduce noise pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Noise Pollution Surveys have been conducted recently in Bhopal, Ahmedabad, Aurangabad, Coimbatore and Mangalore. Noise levels were found generally within limits in industrial areas but often exceeded the prescribed standards in the commercial, residential and silence zones. The rising trend of noise in these cities is due to increase in human activities, including vehicular traffic.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to reduce noise pollution include the following:

(i) Noise standards have been notified for industrial, commercial, residential and silence zones.

(ii) Industries have been directed to install necessary noise pollution control equipment within a stipulated time-frame and legal action is taken against the defaulting units.

(iii) The Central Pollution Control Board has evolved codes of practice for controlling noise from sources other than industries and automobiles. These include public address system, aircraft operation, railway operations, construction activities and bursting of crackers. State Governments have been asked to implement these codes of practice under the relevant local rules.

(iv) Noise limits for automobiles, domestic appliances and construction equipment have been notified.

(v) Public awareness campaigns on the effects of pollution have been launched.

Afforestation under Garibi Hatao Scheme

7080. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the afforestation, started for Garibi Hatao Scheme under the 20-Point Programme, has been abandoned; and

(b) if so, what has been the detailed targets of 1993-94, 1994-95 and the achievements under this Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pollution in Gomti River

7081. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "Gomti water unfit for consumption", which appeared in "The Statesman", dated the 17th April, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the pollution level in Gomti river is increasing and is posing danger for the life of human beings;

(c) whether Government have taken any serious approach in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The increasing pollution level in River Gomti at Lucknow is mostly due to large number of nalas discharging untreated sewage into the river, and to some extent due to discharge of effluents from the industries referred to in the said news items. The Gomti water is being used for drinking purposes only after proper treatment.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Gomti Action Plan, to improve it's water quality, has been approved by the Government on equal capital cost sharing basis between the Centre and the State, which *interalia*